COMMENTS

The Office Action divides the claims into eighty groups. The Office Action asserts that the present application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. The Office Action further asserts that these species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so liked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. Applicant respectfully traverses.

A group of inventions is considered linked to form a single inventive concept where there is a technical relationship among the inventions that involves at least one common or corresponding special technical feature. M.P.E.P. 1893.03(d). Applicant notes that all various splicing variants in the claimed inventions share at least one common technical feature, which they all belong to the SH3D1A gene. Therefore, the claimed inventions meet with the unity of invention requirement.

Nevertheless, Applicant has provisionally elected Group I, which is drawn to claims 1-31 in part. Claims 1-31 have been amended to reflect this election by narrowing the claims to the first splicing variant of SH3D1A (i.e., SEQ ID NO:1). In addition, applicant has added new claim 58, which is drawn to a method of utilizing a nucleic acid encoding SEQ ID NO:2 to diagnose megakaryocytic abnormality, hematopoietic disorder, myeloproliferative disorder, platelet disorder, leukemia or neural disorder. This claim is supported in the specification as filed, specifically for example at page 35, lines 5-17. Applicant believes that the newly added claim possesses unity of invention with amended claims 1-31 under PCT Rule 13.1 as a process of using the product set forth in claim 1. In the event that a species

restriction within claim 58 is required, applicant provisionally elects to prosecute the first species, megakaryocytic abnormality.

If Applicant can do anything more to expedite this application, Applicant asks the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (310) 788-3218.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 4, 2004 By: _____

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